

Message Text

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NODIS

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM KINSHASA DATED JUNE 29, 1978 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 6813

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: US, AO, CG, PEPR

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH ZAIRE ON ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 162883; B) STATE 162884

1. AT REQUEST OF MOBUTU, WHO TIED UP WITH PARTICULARLY HEAVY
SCHEDULE, I BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA ON MCHENRY-NASCIMENTO
TALKS IN ACCORDANCE REF A. UMBA MADE CAREFUL NOTE OF POINTS COVERED
AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT READ-OUT WHICH HE SAID HE
WOULD PASS IMMEDIATELY TO MOBUTU.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR MEETING UMBA MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS

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IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC POINTS MADE BY ANGOLAS:

A. ANGOLA WAS NOT INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN SHABA
INVASION: UMBA DISMISSED THIS CLAIM AS ABSURD, INDICATING THAT IT
REFLECTED POORLY ON ANGOLANS' CREDIBILITY.

B. BURDEN ON ANGOLA OF 200,000 ZAIRIAN REFUGEES: UMBA FOUND
THIS POINT INTERESTING, BUT EVIDENCED SKEPTICISM BY SUGGESTING THAT

GOA MIGHT BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY BY NOT PERMITTING OR ENCOURAGING THEM TO RETURN TO ZAIRE.

C. GOA DESIRE TO RE-OPEN BENGUELA RAILROAD: UMBA ACKNOWLEDGED ADVANTAGES FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, BUT NOTED THAT, REGARDLESS OF AGREEMENT REACHED, EASTERN PORTIONS OF LINE WOULD NOT BE USABLE BECAUSE OF UNITA MILITARY ACTIONS.

D. GOA DECISION TO MOVE ZAIRIAN REFUGEES AWAY FROM BORDER: UMBA EVIDENCED MOST INTEREST IN THIS POINT, BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

E. GOA DECISION TO DISARM KATANGANS ENTERING ANGOLA: UMBA SAID THIS CONFIRMED OTHER EVIDENCE GOZ HAD ALONG THIS LINE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS OF SIMILAR ACTION FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S SHABA INVASION.

F. GOA NOW AWAITED RECIPROCAL MOVE BY ZAIRE, I.E. END TO SUPPORT OF ANGOLAN DISSIDENTS AND DISMANTLING OF THEIR BASES IN ZAIRE: UMBA EVINCED SUSPICION, STATING MOBUTU HAD REPEATEDLY GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT ZAIRE WOULD NOT SUPPORT DISSIDENTS IN ANGOLA. AS FOR ALLEGED BASES, UMBA SAID MOBUTU HAD LONG AGO PROPOSED THAT NEUTRAL PARTY BE INVITED TO INSPECT THEM AND VERIFY FALSITY OF GOA CHARGES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA'S DEMAND FOR RECIPROCAL MOVES BY ZAIRE, I NOTED THAT TALKS IN LUANDA HAD APPARENTLY ENDED BEFORE MOBUTU ANNOUNCED IN HIS JUNE 24 SPEECH THAT AMNESTY WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL ZAIRIAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE SHABANS IN ANGOLA. UMBA ACKNOWLEDGED MY POINT THAT, IN VIEW OF
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THE REFUGEES' FEARS OF REPRISALS, IT WAS NOT ENOUGH MERELY TO ASSURE THEIR SAFE RETURN ACROSS THE BORDER. HE SAID THAT WAS WHY MOBUTU HAD PROPOSED THAT THE OAU AND ICRC PLAY A ROLE WHICH WOULD EXTEND TO PERIODICALLY CHECKING ON THE REFUGEES' WELFARE FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN HOME. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, UMBA SAID THE GOZ WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH OTHERS' ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THAT

OF THE ICRC. HE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP TO MOBUTU'S ANNOUNCEMENT, STATING THE GOZ WOULD NEXT MAKE FORMAL REQUESTS TO THE OAU AND UNHCR FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION.

4. COMMENT: UMBA'S DEFENSIVE REACTION TO A NUMBER OF POINTS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF GOZ'S CONTINUING DEEP DISTRUST OF ANGOLAN/CUBAN/SOVIET INTENTIONS AND PROBABLY ALSO A DEGREE OF SUSPICION REGARDING OUR OWN INTENTIONS. WHILE UMBA PRETENDED TO SEE LITTLE NEW OR ENCOURAGING IN THE ANGOLAN VIEWS, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOBUTU THAT HE ADOPT WITH ME AN ESPECIALLY TOUGH OR NEGATIVE LINE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL GOZ REACTION TO NASCIMENTO'S VIEWS; IN FACT, UMBA MENTIONED HE MIGHT PREPARE FOR US AN AID MEMOIRE CONVEYING MORE PRECISELY THE GOZ'S POSITION ON THE POINTS RAISED DURING OUR CONSULTATION. AT THE SAME TIME, UMBA RESPONDED POSITIVELY WHEN I SAID WE

WOULD GO BACK IN TOUCH WITH MOBUTU ONCE WE'VE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANALYZE THE TALKS IN DEPTH. I URGE THAT WE TAKE THIS STEP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO ENGAGING MOBUTU IN MORE OF A DIALOGUE THAN HE HAS HERETOFORE BEEN WILLING TO UNDERTAKE ON THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM AND TO ENCOURAGING HIM TO THINK ALONG MORE IMAGINATIVE, FLEXIBLE LINES. ALSO, AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY STRESSED, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE RETAIN HIS CONFIDENCE IF WE ARE TO GAIN HIS COOPERATION IN EVENTUALLY RESOLVING THE SENSITIVE AND DIFFICULT ISSUES INHERENT IN AN OVER-ALL POLITICAL ACCOMODATION BETWEEN THE KINSHASA AND LUANDA REGIMES.
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